21 Cornhill Boston

April 27. 1860.

Dear Burleigh,

The reason why I saw & heard nothing of your "Church" last topic was this - On Saturday morn I left for Worcester, to attend the annual County meeting there; When I came back Monday (or I rather think ~~not till~~ it was the forenoon of Tuesday -) Wallcut told me, in a leisurely sort of way, & (hearing me wonder at not getting copy from you) that "a parcel came for you [me] from Burleigh, on Sat. morning; I opened it & took it to the printers, knowing they were waiting for copy." - He forgot that all your Mss. had been read by a Comtee of the Exec. Comtee, before going to Printers, - When I came to read proof, there I found "the Church", - not omitted.

We shall probably print the pamphlet now done — for it is complete in itself, & is much needed, — and especially if Garnier goes to England, to take there with him. — Yet if you could assure me that the year 1859-60 shd. be done in all May (extraordinaries excepted) I wd. take the responsibility on me of waiting; so much better wd. it be to have the 2 years complete together.

I therefore urge you to prepare the past year's Report more succinctly — let it be dryer, more statistical, more confined to facts, mere statement, and thus more brief, — and this for

the sole reason of getting it out as soon as may be, consistent with a faithful presentation of the leading A.S. history. And this, I beg you to understand, is not because we have a syllable of objection to the style & manner & plan of your Report just finished; we admire it; it is exceedingly interesting reading, apart from the special interest we feel in its subject; for ourselves, for the cause, we would prefer another Report on the same pattern; but we feel we must abandon our own preference, and, for this time, take a briefer (though thereby we get a less interesting) Report. — I think the Council are generally of this mind, — excepting perhaps Charles Whipple, who (I suspect) would consent to a delay of months, rather than have you

give us aught less full, & less faithfully stated & authenticated, than you have done in the Report now first finished.

Can I obtain for you any files & papers, do you think? Or can you get not find, in Northampton, a complete file of Tribune? (weekly or semi-weekly.)

☞ All the John Brown matter comes into last year. Other things may be dismissed, in a comparatively summary manner, — but that must be given with some good degree of completeness.

☞ We have decided to print the Reports separately. I mourn over the necessity.

Truly Yrs. S. May Jr.

MS. B.1.6 v.8, p.22